

NW London Eruv

30th October 1996

What has been happening?

In order to establish the NW London Eruv, consents are necessary from two Barnet Council Committees - Public Works and Development & Protection (formerly known as Planning). Public Works consent for the original eruv proposal was given in 1992. Planning consent was obtained in October 1994 as a result of a successful appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment after Barnet Planning Committee rejected our initial application in February

1993 and based on the positive findings of the Inspector in the Planning Appeal hearings held in December 1993.

The main reasons for the time that has passed since then have been the major roadworks on the North Circular Road in East Finchley, the planned redevelopment of the Express Dairy site in Cricklewood and the necessity to co-ordinate the exact siting of each pole with the statutory utilities - gas, electricity,

What YOU can do to help NOW!

- 1 Everyone over 18 years old in your household should write a short letter now.
- 2 Address it **Dear Councillor**
- 3 Say briefly why you want the eruv, e.g.
I want to be able to go to synagogue or visit family and friends with my children, elderly or disabled relative
I think it will help thousands of people in the borough at no cost or loss of amenity to others
- 4 Finish your letter with a call to action - **Please vote for the eruv application**
- 5 Send your letter to
The Eruv Committee
9 West Heath Rd, London NW3 7UX
- 6 We will ensure that your letter is forwarded to the right councillors and Barnet officers.

Extracts from the Secretary of States Appeal Decision, 20th September 1994

"The Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector that while the proposed poles would add to the street furniture, there is no location where the overall impact would seriously harm the character and appearance of that particular location."

"does not consider that the arguments adduced on this issue [social harmony] are of sufficient weight to amount to a planning objection."

"is satisfied that the appeals' proposals do not have any adverse visual impact on the environment."

"agrees with the Inspector that the erection of poles would leave the [Garden Suburb] Conservation Area substantially unharmed."

Extract from the Inspector's conclusions

"I found the further assertions by objectors that the eruv would lead to the creation of a ghetto in Barnet to be unfounded and in danger of infringing the Race Relations Act 1976."

Where are we now?

The revised application, approved by the London Beth Din, has been submitted to Barnet. The Public Works Committee will consider the application on November 19th and the Development & Protection Committee on December 4th.

Whilst we do have a prior planning approval from the Secretary of State and councillors will be made aware of this, we have to recognise that councillors are heavily influenced in

their voting by public comment.

It is crucially important that we show the Council the large number of people who are in favour of the eruv NOW and who will benefit from it.

Letters written in 1992 are no longer relevant. Many of the councillors considering the application are newly elected with no knowledge of the depth of support behind the application.

THE NORTH WEST LONDON Eruv

Example from a recent letter to Barnet Council

128, Accacia Avenue
My Town
My Postcode

Dear Councillor,

We are writing to ask you to support the planning application for the establishment of an eruv in NW London. As orthodox Jews we are very conscious of the huge difference this will make to families with babies who at present cannot go out on the Sabbath, being unable to push a pram or buggy. For disabled and frail elderly people, the eruv will be a great bonus and we as a community in Barnet should be doing all we can to help the elderly of the Borough.

The Jewish community is bearing the cost. The eruv will benefit many people with no adverse effect.

Yours Sincerely,